

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 14-25 are now present in this application. Claims 14, 23, and 25 are independent. By this amendment, claims 1-13 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 14-25 have been added.

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging Applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119, and receipt of the certified priority document.

Information Disclosure Citation

Applicant thanks the Examiner for considering the references supplied with the Information Disclosure Statement filed July 7, 2006, and for providing Applicant with an initialed copy of the PTO-SB08 form filed therewith.

As noted in the IDS filed on July 7, 2006, Applicant submits that JP 8-39959 is equivalent to JP 3122807 and therefore it was not necessary to submit JP 3122807.

Drawings

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that the drawings are accepted.

Restriction Requirement

The Examiner has made the Restriction Requirement final, and has withdrawn claims 10-13 from further consideration. By this Amendment, Applicant has cancelled claims 1-13 and submitted new claims 14-25. Applicant submits that new claims 14-25 are directed to the elected invention.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claims 1-9 because of the inclusion of reference numbers without the use of parentheses. Applicant respectfully submits that this objection has been rendered moot in view of the newly filed claims.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd Paragraph

Claims 5 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd Paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner has set forth certain instances wherein the claim language lacks antecedent basis or is not clearly understood. In particular, the Examiner has indicated that the terms “clamp shaft” and “fork pipes” are unclear. Applicant respectfully submits that the term clamp shaft and fork pipes are used in the specification and are shown in the drawings in such a manner that one of ordinary skill in the art can determine the proper meaning.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection as applicable to the newly added claims are respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1, 3, 5, 8, and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Garland; claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(3) as being anticipated by Ross; and claims 6 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ross in view of Stephenson. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Complete discussions of the Examiner's rejections are set forth in the Office Action, and are not being repeated here.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-9 have been cancelled, thus rendering these rejections moot. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

Claims 14-25

Claims 14-25 have been added for the Examiner's consideration.

Independent claim 14 recites a combination of elements in a tape supplier including a tape cassette having a tape roll with a plurality of tapes inserted between two sheets, the tape cassette including: a first rotational shaft rotatably supporting the tape roll; a second rotational shaft configured to collect one of the two sheets by winding the same in a roll about the second rotational shaft; a third rotational shaft configured to collect the other of the two sheets by winding the same in a roll about the third rotational shaft; and a tape ejection roller assembly

outwardly ejecting individual tapes of the plurality of tapes from which the two sheets are removed, the tape ejector roller assembly contacting only said individual tapes and not said sheets. The tape supplier also includes a tape cassette driver driving the tape cassette, the tape cassette driver being configured to drive the second and third rotational shafts.

Applicant respectfully submits that this combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 14 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record. In particular, the Examiner alleged that Garland discloses a tape ejection roller assembly 2/3. Applicant notes that based on the teachings of Garland, the tape ejection roller assembly 2/3 clearly contacts the bandage strips 47 and not the individual bandages 46.

Similarly, the Examiner alleges that Ross discloses a tape ejector roller assembly 131. Applicant notes that based on the teachings of Ross, the tape ejector roller assembly 131 clearly contacts first and second cover strips 51, 52 and not the individual bandages 53.

Stephenson fails to overcome the deficiencies noted above regarding Garland and Ross.

Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 14 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Garland, Ross, and Stephenson, for the reasons explained above. Accordingly, consideration and allowance of independent claim 14 are respectfully requested.

With regard to dependent claims 15-22, Applicant submits that claims 15-22 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 14, which is allowable for the reasons set forth above, and therefore claims 15-22 are allowable based on their dependence from claim 14, as well as for their additionally recited subject matter.

Independent claim 23 recites a combination of elements in a tape supplier including a tape cassette, a tape cassette driver, and a support frame. The tape cassette includes a tape roll with a plurality of tapes inserted between two sheets, a first rotational shaft rotatably supporting the tape roll, a second rotational shaft configured to collect one of the two sheets by winding the same in a roll about the second rotational shaft, a third rotational shaft configured to collect the other of the two sheets by winding the same in a roll about the third rotational shaft, and a tape ejection roller assembly outwardly ejecting individual tapes of the plurality of tapes from which the two sheets are removed. The tape cassette driver drives the tape cassette and includes a first driving gear, a second driving gear configured to rotate the second rotational shaft, and a third

driving gear configured to rotate the third rotational shaft, wherein the rotation of the first driving gear drives the rotation of the second and third driving gears. The support frame is disposed between the tape cassette and the tape cassette driver.

Applicant respectfully submits that this combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 23 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record. In particular, Garland fails to disclose first, second, and third driving gears where rotation of the first driving gear causes the second and third driving gears to rotate. Garland also fails to disclose a support frame arranged between the tape cassette and the alleged tape cassette driver 6.

Similarly, Ross fails to disclose first, second, and third driving gears where rotation of the first driving gear causes the second and third driving gears to rotate. Ross also fails to disclose a support frame arranged between the tape cassette and the alleged tape cassette driver 160/170.

Stephenson fails to overcome the deficiencies noted above regarding Garland and Ross.

Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 23 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Garland, Ross, and Stephenson, for the reasons explained above. Accordingly, consideration and allowance of independent claim 23 are respectfully requested.

With regard to dependent claim 24, Applicant submits that claim 24 depends from independent claim 23, which is allowable for the reasons set forth above, and therefore claim 24 is allowable based on its dependence from claim 23, as well as for its additionally recited subject matter.

Independent claim 25 recites a combination of elements in a tape supplier including a tape cassette, a tape cassette driver, and a box for holding a tape roll. The tape cassette having a tape roll with a plurality of tapes inserted between two sheets, a first rotational shaft rotatably supporting the tape roll, a second rotational shaft configured to collect one of the two sheets by winding the same in a roll about the second rotational shaft, a third rotational shaft configured to collect the other of the two sheets by winding the same in a roll about the third rotational shaft, and a tape ejection roller assembly outwardly ejecting a tape from which the two sheets are removed. The tape cassette driver drives the tape cassette and is configured to drive the second and third rotational shafts. The box for holding the tape roll is located in the tape cassette and includes a first fork pipe having a through hole at the center, the first fork pipe supporting the

tape roll, a second fork pipe having a through hole at the center, the second fork pipe having an end of one of the two sheets fixed thereto, and a third fork pipe having a through hole at the center, the third fork pipe having an end of the other of the two sheets fixed thereto. The box also includes a through hole corresponding to each of the first, second, and third fork pipes such that the first, second and third rotational shafts extend therethrough and are received in the corresponding through hole of the first, second, and third fork pipes, respectively.

Applicant respectfully submits that this combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 25 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record. In particular, Garland and Ross fail to disclose a box located in the tape cassette and the particulars of the box including a through hole corresponding to each of the first, second, and third fork pipes such that the first, second and third rotational shafts extend therethrough and are received in the corresponding through hole of the first, second, and third fork pipes, respectively.

Stephenson fails to overcome the deficiencies noted above regarding Garland and Ross.

Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 25 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Garland, Ross, and Stephenson, for the reasons explained above. Accordingly, consideration and allowance of independent claim 25 are respectfully requested.

Consideration and allowance of claims 14-25 are respectfully requested.

Office Action

The Office Action contains numerous characterizations of the invention, the claims, and the cited art, with which Applicant does not necessarily agree. Unless expressly noted otherwise, Applicant declines to subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

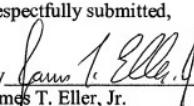
In view of the above amendment, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Chad D. Wells, Registration No. 50,875 at the telephone number of the undersigned below to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees required during the pendency of the above-identified application or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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